

**FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

**OCTOBER 1988**

**DONATION**

**VOL.IX, NO. X**



**NOT TERRORISTS**

# **LIBERTAD**

**OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
TO FREE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR**

*PO Box 357*

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*New York City, NY 10029*

*Comité Especial*

*Box 137*

*San Juan, Puerto Rico 00905*

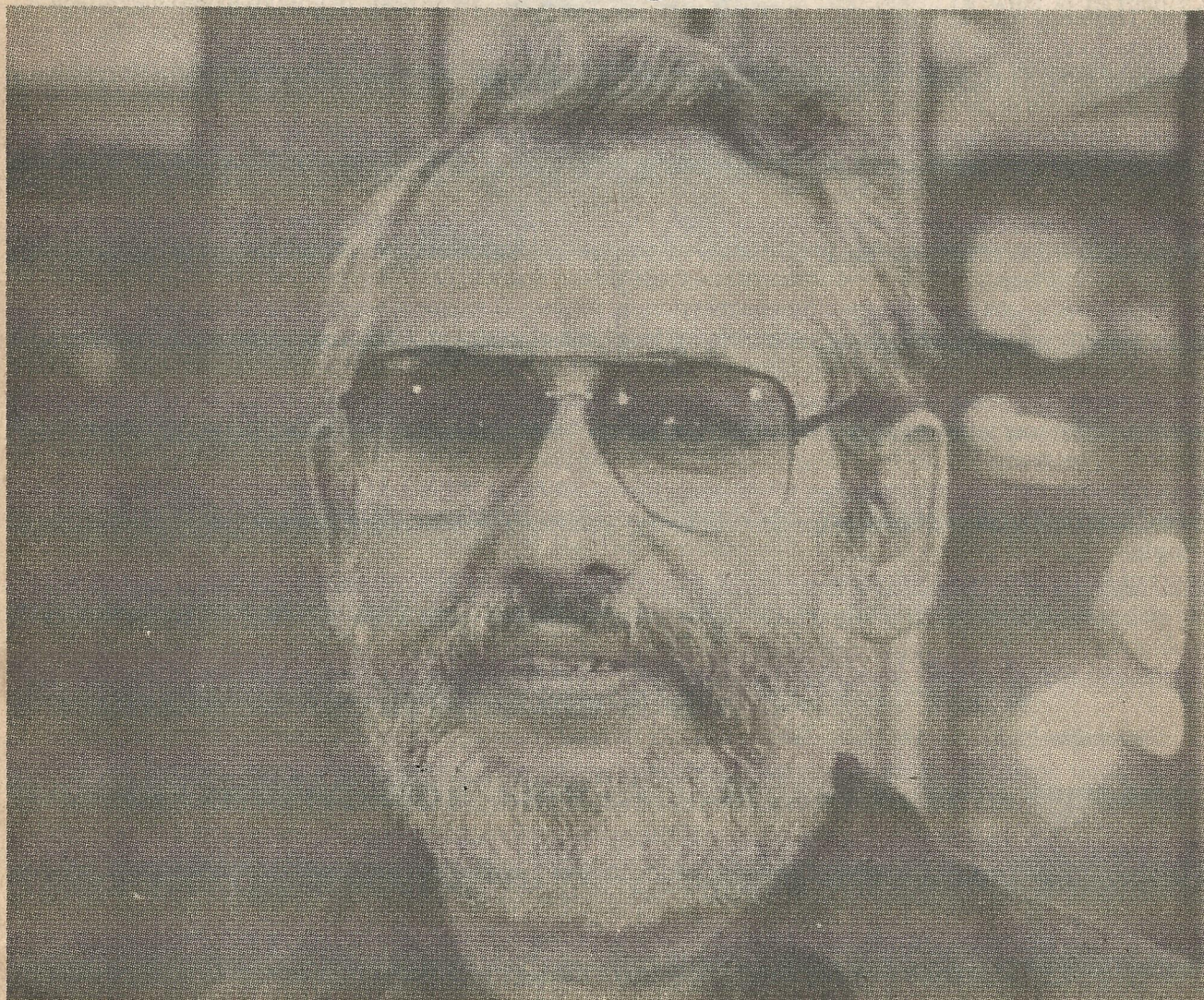
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## **Filiberto Ojeda-Ríos**



# **PATRIOT!**



## ...You Can Count On My Participation...

*The following message was prepared by Prisoner of War Alejandrina Torres for the commemoration of the 120th anniversary of the Grito de Lares in Puerto Rico on September 23.*

My Beloved People,

On this glorious day in the history of our homeland, I send you a revolutionary embrace and combative greetings to the valiant freedom fighters who have continued the example of the heroes of Lares. Their example gives meaning and character to our just demand for the liberty and sovereignty of our homeland. From my new battle front, I reiterate my patriotic commitment to continue the struggle to regain what is rightfully ours. More than just a mere commemoration, for our combative people the Lares uprising represents the reinforcement of our determination and combativeness in the face of the daily rape of our national dignity by US imperialism.

The Lares uprising also represents our efforts and accomplishments in favor of our human rights. Our unwavering resistance does not and will never allow our aspirations to be trampled on by the imperial power and the alleged democratic trappings imposed on our people. We will accept nothing short of full independence for our

people. To achieve this, we must continue the struggle no matter what the cost. Then and only then will we be in a position to decide our own future. In this endeavor, you can count on my participation as well as that of our country's many heroes that have not and will



not allow these prison walls to destroy that dream. If our jailers are sure of anything, it is of our commitment. They will not cease their efforts to destroy our commitment through abuse and harassment.

Each day we are faced with the uncertainty of not knowing what lies ahead for us. At the moment, the bureau of prisons is contemplating my transfer to the new

maximum security control unit in Florida, which has replaced the Lexington Control Unit, but also the transfer of the other women POWs currently imprisoned in general population at the Pleasanton FCI. My transfer to this place (*Editor's note: San Diego MCC*) was the result of a campaign exemplarily carried out around my case in Puerto Rico and at the international level. My transfer was also effected to quell our people's outcries in defense of my human rights. But they are sorely mistaken if they think that our people will let down their guard. We represent our people's resistance and revolutionary spirit.

The Lares uprising has left us a great example. We will continue together with our people until we win our victory. Compañeros, let us continue the struggle, because as my beloved comrade Angel Rodríguez-Cristóbal once said: *When you struggle for something just, you have nothing to fear.* Puerto Rico will be ours!

De Pie y En Lucha,  
Alejandrina

## They Are The Guilty Ones!

*Statement by Filiberto Ojeda-Ríos to the US federal court in Puerto Rico on September 7, 1988*



Before answering your question in a definitive manner, I want to clearly establish before this court that its establishment and execution in our homeland is the result of 90 years of colonial dominion, of the invasion and military occupation, of the violation of all the Puerto Rican people's rights and finally, of the heinous crime committed against us by impeding our self-determination and independence. I do not recognize the jurisdiction of this court to try me, much less to try me for my participation in our liberation struggle.

When you struggle for freedom, when you take a stand and defend your home, when you struggle to defend your people's rights, when you struggle to right wrongs and stop the aggressions that victimize us, no crime is committed. The crime is committed by those who victimize us, that rob us of our daily labor, those who try to prevent our freedom. They are the guilty ones. Your Honor—I am innocent.



# *The Closing Of The Lexington Control Unit*

*By Julio Rosado*

The shut down of the Control Unit for women at the federal prison in Lexington, Kentucky ended 13 months of one of the most insightful struggles ever initiated by the **Movimiento de Liberación Nacional MLN** in its 11-year existence.

Perhaps no other campaign in the organization's history has been the object of so much intense scrutiny and preparation.

In October of 1986, Puerto Rican Prisoner of War Alejandrina Torres became the first woman to be targeted for torture at the Lexington Control Unit. The campaign was set in motion as soon as we learned of her transfer to Lexington.

Once we learned what the Control Unit was all about, we realized that more than imperial arrogance, Lexington represented a huge tactical error on behalf of the ruling elite in Washington. In their blind drive to crucify the Puerto Rican POWs, who with their courage and integrity have challenged the powers that be, the US government had made a serious mistake.

The opening of this new and even more nefarious Control Unit was not the time for the usual marches and telegram campaigns; an outcome which the US government both expected and desired. The Lexington Control Unit represented the worst nightmare of progressive people in the US—the first step toward a fascist society.

Later, when the government transferred two other political prisoners to the Control Unit, Italian national Sylvia Baraldini and North American Susan Rosenberg, the struggle for the Unit's immediate shut-down took on a broader, anti-fascist character, emphasizing the human rights aspect of the case.

It was within this framework that the **MLN** convoked a meeting of diverse, progressive sectors on July 26, 1987, to organize a broad-based campaign that went beyond the resources of our Organization. A few months later, the Lexington Campaign disseminated its message through various mediums and the consequences reverberated everywhere. In early 1988, news of the existence of this torture unit reached the diplomatic and human rights circles in Geneva. A wave of protests by progressive organizations in Latin America and Europe followed. By April, the issue was the subject of a discussion between the Soviet Union and the United States. Alejandrina Torres became a household word in Puerto Rico.

In the colonial legislature, the political parties all echoed the demand for the closure of the Control Unit and the women's transfer to general population. In the US, civic and religious groups of every denomination joined progressive and political sectors in the demand to shut down the Lexington Control Unit.

It was only then that attorneys filed a law suit in the case of Susan Rosenberg and Silvia Baraldini so that the government could officially "rubber stamp" its decision to close the unit. However, the Lexington Campaign was never seen as an end in itself. It represented the first phase of what is in reality a broader and more important campaign—the international campaign for the human rights of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War imprisoned in US jails.

At present, there are more than 100 people imprisoned in US jails for political reasons. Everyday violations are committed against the basic human rights of thousands of other common prisoners, many of whom are more the victims of economic discrimination than victimizers themselves. Political prisoners are mistreated and capriciously isolated in control units, they are denied visits, correspondence, and contact with their children and spouses. Subject to frequent and arbitrary transfers, political prisoners are denied contact with other prisoners and are often threatened and harassed.

Many common prisoners are also subjected to similar reprisals for protesting their conditions; poor-quality food; overcrowded cells; abusive regulations and treatment, humiliating and capricious orders and the inexplicable loss of "privileges" and good time. Prisoners are constantly provoked and treated like slaves.

Even worse, prisons are a source of cheap labor for US military and private industry, undermining the labor movement and the employment of non-imprisoned citizens.

We propose to document and denounce these human rights violations before the entire world. We also intend to mobilize the international community as well as progressive sectors in the US to obtain the freedom of all Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War. Only then will we consider as finished the campaign that began with the demand to shut down the Lexington Control Unit.



# ***Order Mariana Bracetti Awarded To Women Prisoners Of War***

*The Order Mariana Bracetti was awarded to the Prisoners of War Dylcia Pagán, Alicia Rodríguez, Ida Luz Rodríguez, Haydeé Torres and Carmen Valentín in Puerto Rico on September 6, by the Unitary Committee Against Repression, the Special Committee in Support of Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and the International League for the Rights and Sovereignty of People's—Puerto Rico Chapter.*

*The Order was presented to family members during the celebration of the 120th anniversary of the Grito de Lares on September 23, in Puerto Rico.*

***The resolution reads:***

**Whereas,** Dylcia Pagán, Alicia Rodríguez, Ida Luz Rodríguez, Haydeé Torres and Carmen Valentín are fine Puerto Rican women who have distinguished themselves as anti-colonial combatants;

**Whereas,** at the time of their capture, the compañeras sought recognition as Prisoners of War in accordance with the international law that protects those who struggle against colonialism;

**Whereas,** international law has declared colonialism a crime against humanity and recognizes the right of the oppressed to use any means at their disposal, including armed struggle to combat this terrible, oppressive condition;

**Whereas,** in violation of international law, the North American regime tried them as common criminals and sentenced them to long and cruel jail terms;

**Whereas,** the prison experiences of these valiant Puerto Rican women has been characterized by physical and emotional brutality;

**Whereas,** the compañeras have responded to the oppressor's bestiality with ideological integrity and the valor and sacrifice prevalent among all Puerto Rican patriots;

**Whereas,** Dylcia, Alicia, Ida Luz, Haydeé and Carmen each day demonstrate the Puerto Rican woman's dedication to the oppressed homeland;

**Whereas,** Dylcia, Alicia, Ida Luz, Haydeé and Carmen embody the sublime valor of everyone committed to the liberation of the homeland and are authentic examples of the concrete expression of that absolute commitment;

**Whereas,** on behalf of the Puerto Rican people who love and admire them for clearly demonstrating our homeland's capacity for resistance;

**Whereas,** on behalf of the patriotic organizations that see in their actions the historic continuation of the patriotic struggle to achieve the liberation of Puerto Rico;

**Whereas,** on behalf of our future liberated homeland;

The following organizations hereby decree that:

1. the five compañeras be accorded status as permanent and active members of our organizations;
2. the Order of Mariana Bracetti be awarded to Dylcia Pagán, Alicia Rodríguez, Ida Luz Rodríguez, Haydeé Torres and Carmen Valentín for their continued adherence to the revolutionary principles of the great Puerto Rican struggle;
3. we will make known to all freedom and peace-loving people, to all those committed to the anti-colonial struggle and to our beloved Puerto Rican people this humble tribute to the Puerto Rican woman combatant;
4. our love for and commitment to the imprisoned compañeras will remain constant in the hopes that we will soon be united in a fraternal embrace in our liberated homeland.



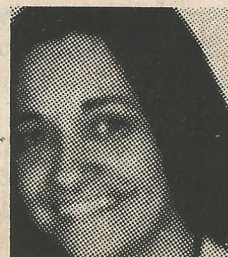
Dylcia Pagán



Ida Luz Rodríguez



Alicia Rodríguez



Haydeé Torres



Carmen Valentín



# Health Issues at Marion

—northamerican political prisoner tim blunk

*The following article, the first of two parts, was written in October 1987.*



Few experiences behind the walls will underscore a prisoner's powerlessness more than a personal struggle to obtain decent health care. This is particularly true at USP Marion where driving home this message is an essential part of its *raison d'être* within the federal prison system. The delivery or withholding of needed health care is first premised upon this mission. Confronted with grave illness or injury, Marion prisoners must fight through a health care delivery system that is structured around the view of the patient-as-enemy. At its best, medical care is a form of short-term crisis management conditioned by the dictates of institutional security. At its sadistic worst, Marion, like other federal prisons, has demonstrated both the ability and the willingness to manipulate a prisoner's illness or disability as a weapon against him. For most, it is a profoundly personal and often lonely struggle to maintain one's own physical integrity through a health crisis that must be mediated through such a system. Prisoners fear becoming sick and often will ignore symptoms because of the vulnerability it entails. The tendency is to repress and live with potentially dangerous conditions rather than concede such an advantage to the prison authorities. When care is sought out, one feels at every point that his very humanity is in contention. And without winning this concession, there is no struggle for the human right to health care. It is no coincidence, therefore, that this demand has been central to virtually every major prison uprising in the US since Attica. I would like to raise two health-related issues that are significant concerns in their own right but also give us some insight into the nature of the Marion project as a whole: 1) the PCB and heavy metal contamination of Marion's water supply, and 2) the treatment of prisoners testing positive for HIV (AIDS virus) antibodies.

## The water supply

It is ironic, but perhaps because of all the attention that the lockdown and its human rights violations have received, another significant threat to the health and well-being of Marion prisoners has gone relatively unnoticed. The contamination of Marion prison's water supply, in the end may prove to be the most damaging (and even deadly) of the conditions

of incarceration here. Essentially, Marion draws its water supply from a toxic waste dump.

Since the prison opened in 1963, USP Marion has had its own separate water source, drawing from Crab Orchard Lake which is part of the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. This wildlife refuge is unique in the country as industries have been allowed to operate within its boundaries. This has been justified by the severe conditions of unemployment in Southern Illinois caused by the collapse of both the coal mining industry and farming. Special incentives have been offered to attract large employers—incentives which seem to have included a see-no-evil posture on the part of local authorities regarding the disposal of toxic industrial wastes. Since the 1930's, explosives manufacturers (such as Olin which still operates here) and electronics companies have buried tons of nitrates, toxic heavy metals such as lead, and PCB's (polychlorinated byphenyls) into numerous dumpsites within the Crab Orchard refuge. These wastes have been steadily seeping into the aquifer and draining into Crab Orchard Lake. In July 1987, the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge was distinguished as the first wildlife refuge in the country to be cited as a toxic waste hazard and added to the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund priority list for emergency clean-up.

\*EPA tests conducted since the 1970's have shown PCB, lead, zinc, arsenic and other toxic materials throughout the Crab Orchard refuge. PCB in particular has been found in toxic concentrations in sediment in Crab Orchard Lake. PCB is a known, powerful carcinogenic agent. The harmful effects of long-term exposure to lead are also well-documented.

\*The City of Marion has access to Crab Orchard Lake as an emergency water supply. It used it once in 1981 for a brief period. However, when drought conditions this fall forced city engineers to find back-up sources of water, a furor by local residents forced the city to buy water from the nearby city of Herrin because of fears of PCB contamination. Health risks that are clearly unacceptable to populations on the outside are fine when it comes to prisoners. With the monotonous Bureau of Prisons chant about Marion confining the "worst of the worst", there has been no protest demonstrated by local citizens concerning the slow poisoning of prisoners. Marion prisoners have achieved rough political parity with Crab Orchard Lake catfish—although there's probably more



## ***Latest News...***

### ***Luis Rosa Transferred!***

Once again the Illinois Department of Corrections has for no legitimate reason uprooted Prisoner of War Luis Rosa and transferred him to Stateville Prison. Luis' transfer differs from previous incarcerations at Stateville because of the heightened level of harassment. He is the only prisoner at Stateville whose cell is shaken down weekly, whose cell assignment will be changed every month and whose every move is monitored not just by radio calls ahead but by a lieutenant who follows his every move. He is not allowed to resume his job in the education department, nor allowed to even enter the education building.

During previous stays at Stateville and recent stay at Menard, Luis worked several jobs, generally helping fellow prisoners; attended college classes at night and participated in a full range of recreational activities without incident.

We must add that Luis successfully organized a picnic for inmates and their families to Menard Prison. An action that prison officials were not happy about. The new restrictions which single him out for special treatment have only one basis: to punish him for his political affiliations and his ability to organize within the prison.

In spite of the harassment, the compañero remains resolute and in good spirits.

### ***Filiberto Ojeda Ríos Held In MCC New York***

As we reported in the September issue of *Libertad*, Filiberto was arrested and charged with shooting an FBI agent in a shoot-out on the day they raided his home on August 30, 1985. Upon his arrest in Hartford, Connecticut, the US government had Filiberto flown to Puerto Rico to be arraigned in federal court for the new charges. Under the most brutal and inhumane conditions and in total disregard for his health, (Filiberto is still recovering from triple by-pass surgery), he was held at the Roosevelt Roads military base. Due to popular support for Filiberto and demands for his immediate release throughout Puerto Rico, the US government was forced to transfer him off the military base. Filiberto is presently being held in the Metropolitan Correctional Center MCC in New York.

**The following are new addresses for our imprisoned patriots. Write to them!**

Alejandrina Torres  
#92152-024  
San Diego MCC  
808 Union Street  
San Diego, CA 92101

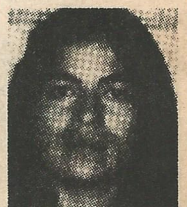
Luis Rosa NO2743  
Box 112  
Joliet, Illinois 60434

Filiberto Ojeda Ríos #03167-069  
Metropolitan Correctional Center MCC  
150 Park Row  
New York, NY 10003



**Dylcia**  
October 15

***Happy  
Birthday  
Dylcia and Alicia***



**Alicia**  
October 21



# Roy Brown

## In Concert

### In Commemoration of the 38th anniversary of the Jayuya Uprising

Friday, October 28, 1988

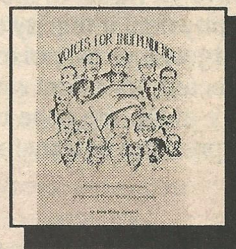
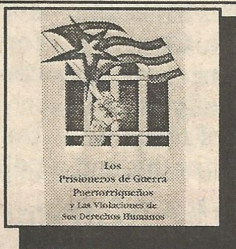
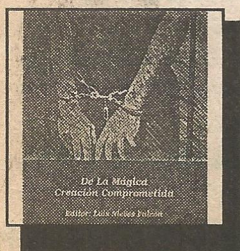
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### **Health Issues...**

local concern over the fate of the latter.

\*Quite naturally the prison administration at Marion sees no reason for alarm. Of course prison staff does not wash, bathe or cook with contaminated water. Many guards will not drink the water and bring bottled beverages or thermoses from home.

\*No known studies have been done by Health Services at the prison or by contracted outside groups to look for the range of possible symptoms with PCB or toxic heavy metal exposure among Marion prisoners or staff. The unique conditions of isolation/separation at Marion makes the collection of such information by prisoners ourselves nearly impossible. However, through the limited contacts available (the prison grapevine) and through studying various prisoner lawsuits there does seem to be a definable set of symptoms that are unique and specific to a significant proportion of the population that can be correlated with a prisoners arrival at Marion. (In a few known cases, some of these disappear when the prisoner has been transferred to another prison). These symptoms include: chronic dermatitis that appears similar to eczema with small blotches of scaling and itching skin on arms and legs, multiple lipomas (small, benign tumors that form in subcutaneous adipose tissue), frequent headaches, nausea, deterioration of vision and, in several instances, cancer. One of the prisoners who has filed a lawsuit over the water contamination has lost a kidney because of cancer that developed during his incarceration here.

\*While official policy maintains that the water contamination is a non-issue, the administration's own actions repeatedly belie an effort to hide the truth from prisoners and the public. The administration has made it clear on numerous occasions that no prisoner will receive a transfer out of Marion unless he drops all litigation against the prison. This stipulation penalizes a prisoner from exercising his Constitutional rights in the courts and reduces his health and physical integrity to bargaining chips. Choosing to litigate against poisonous conditions means being subjected to them even longer—virtually indefinitely given the pace of civil litigation of this kind. The pressure to transfer out is enormous for this and

all the other reasons. It has meant that lawsuits are continually filed and then dropped, without enough continuity or progress to force the prison to act. A few men persevere with their litigation despite the numerous obstacles and penalties.

\*The Health Services staff—physicians and physician's assistants (PA's)—manifest a studied ignorance when prisoners inquire about the origins of their symptoms and the possible relationship to PCB or heavy metals exposure. The skin rashes and incidence of lipomas both seem to be very common—certainly appearing with enough frequency to raise serious questions for concerned health professionals. I have personally developed both of these symptoms since coming to Marion. When I inquired about the lipomous growths on my back, the physician replied that he thought he "might have read something about them in medical school". The refusal to undertake any serious investigation is coupled with an attitude that prisoners are just habitual complainers and eager to get back at the prison and staff on any level.

\*The EPA published a report about toxic contamination in the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, including the PCB contamination of Crab Orchard Lake. The prison has actively tried to prevent copies of this report from coming inside to prisoners with pending lawsuits with the justification that the information contained within it might give rise to "possible threat to the security and good order of the institution"—i.e., protest on the part of prisoners against being systematically poisoned.

\*The occurrence of symptoms such as the dermatitis and lipomous growths would be sufficient cause for immediate investigation and action by responsible health professionals. However, the cancers that are known to result from exposure to PCB usually take many years to develop, often up to twenty. Toxins such as PCB accumulate in the body, usually in high concentrations in adipose tissue (where death due to this kind of toxic exposure may not be known for a long time. But any possibility of such severe consequences deserves immediate and complex investigation. This clearly won't be generated by the Bureau of Prisons except as a shuck to perceived public pressure. *Continues in next issue.*

## **STOP the Marion Lockdown!**

**Join us on the 5th anniversary of the Marion Lockdown**

**Saturday, October 22, 1988**

**Noon - 6:00 p.m.**

**Wellington Ave. Church 615 W. Wellington Ave.**

**Sponsored by: Committee to End the Marion Lockdown**

**National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War**

**Info: CEML 663-5046**



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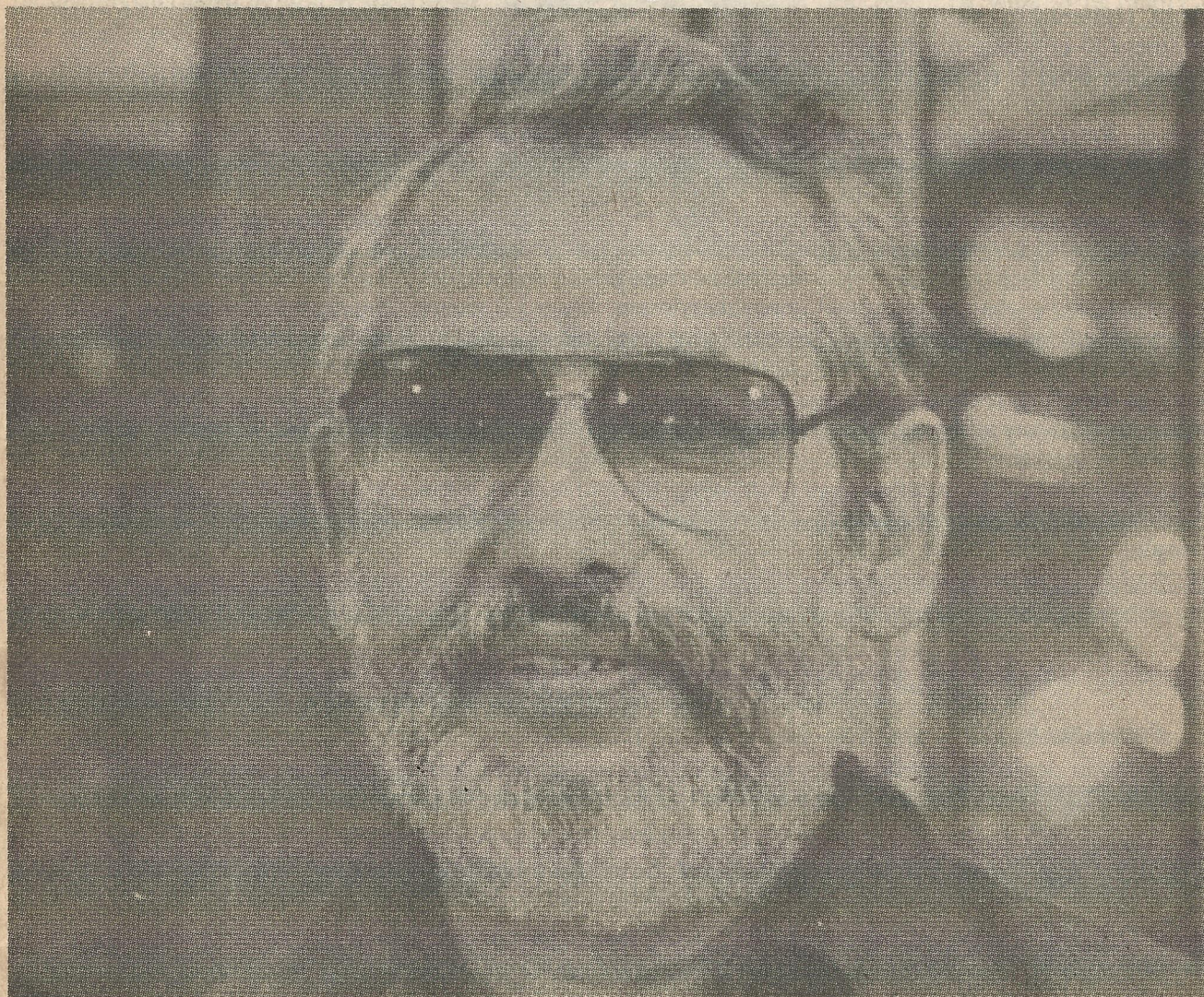
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# ***Order Mariana Bracetti Awarded To Women Prisoners Of War***

*The Order Mariana Bracetti was awarded to the Prisoners of War Dylcia Pagán, Alicia Rodríguez, Ida Luz Rodríguez, Haydeé Torres and Carmen Valentín in Puerto Rico on September 6, by the Unitary Committee Against Repression, the Special Committee in Support of Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and the International League for the Rights and Sovereignty of People's—Puerto Rico Chapter.*

*The Order was presented to family members during the celebration of the 120th anniversary of the Grito de Lares on September 23, in Puerto Rico.*

***The resolution reads:***

**Whereas,** Dylcia Pagán, Alicia Rodríguez, Ida Luz Rodríguez, Haydeé Torres and Carmen Valentín are fine Puerto Rican women who have distinguished themselves as anti-colonial combatants;

**Whereas,** at the time of their capture, the compañeras sought recognition as Prisoners of War in accordance with the international law that protects those who struggle against colonialism;

**Whereas,** international law has declared colonialism a crime against humanity and recognizes the right of the oppressed to use any means at their disposal, including armed struggle to combat this terrible, oppressive condition;

**Whereas,** in violation of international law, the North American regime tried them as common criminals and sentenced them to long and cruel jail terms;

**Whereas,** the prison experiences of these valiant Puerto Rican women has been characterized by physical and emotional brutality;

**Whereas,** the compañeras have responded to the oppressor's bestiality with ideological integrity and the valor and sacrifice prevalent among all Puerto Rican patriots;

**Whereas,** Dylcia, Alicia, Ida Luz, Haydeé and Carmen each day demonstrate the Puerto Rican woman's dedication to the oppressed homeland;

**Whereas,** Dylcia, Alicia, Ida Luz, Haydeé and Carmen embody the sublime valor of everyone committed to the liberation of the homeland and are authentic examples of the concrete expression of that absolute commitment;

**Whereas,** on behalf of the Puerto Rican people who love and admire them for clearly demonstrating our homeland's capacity for resistance;

**Whereas,** on behalf of the patriotic organizations that see in their actions the historic continuation of the patriotic struggle to achieve the liberation of Puerto Rico;

**Whereas,** on behalf of our future liberated homeland;

The following organizations hereby decree that:

1. the five compañeras be accorded status as permanent and active members of our organizations;
2. the Order of Mariana Bracetti be awarded to Dylcia Pagán, Alicia Rodríguez, Ida Luz Rodríguez, Haydeé Torres and Carmen Valentín for their continued adherence to the revolutionary principles of the great Puerto Rican struggle;
3. we will make known to all freedom and peace-loving people, to all those committed to the anti-colonial struggle and to our beloved Puerto Rican people this humble tribute to the Puerto Rican woman combatant;
4. our love for and commitment to the imprisoned compañeras will remain constant in the hopes that we will soon be united in a fraternal embrace in our liberated homeland.



Dylcia Pagán



Ida Luz Rodríguez



Alicia Rodríguez



Haydeé Torres



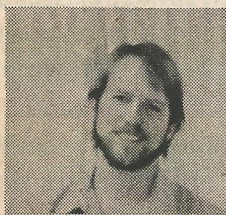
Carmen Valentín



# Health Issues at Marion

—northamerican political prisoner tim blunk

*The following article, the first of two parts, was written in October 1987.*



Few experiences behind the walls will underscore a prisoner's powerlessness more than a personal struggle to obtain decent health care. This is particularly true at USP Marion where driving home this message is an essential part of its *raison d'être* within the federal prison system. The delivery or withholding of needed health care is first premised upon this mission. Confronted with grave illness or injury, Marion prisoners must fight through a health care delivery system that is structured around the view of the patient-as-enemy. At its best, medical care is a form of short-term crisis management conditioned by the dictates of institutional security. At its sadistic worst, Marion, like other federal prisons, has demonstrated both the ability and the willingness to manipulate a prisoner's illness or disability as a weapon against him. For most, it is a profoundly personal and often lonely struggle to maintain one's own physical integrity through a health crisis that must be mediated through such a system. Prisoners fear becoming sick and often will ignore symptoms because of the vulnerability it entails. The tendency is to repress and live with potentially dangerous conditions rather than concede such an advantage to the prison authorities. When care is sought out, one feels at every point that his very humanity is in contention. And without winning this concession, there is no struggle for the human right to health care. It is no coincidence, therefore, that this demand has been central to virtually every major prison uprising in the US since Attica. I would like to raise two health-related issues that are significant concerns in their own right but also give us some insight into the nature of the Marion project as a whole: 1) the PCB and heavy metal contamination of Marion's water supply, and 2) the treatment of prisoners testing positive for HIV (AIDS virus) antibodies.

## The water supply

It is ironic, but perhaps because of all the attention that the lockdown and its human rights violations have received, another significant threat to the health and well-being of Marion prisoners has gone relatively unnoticed. The contamination of Marion prison's water supply, in the end may prove to be the most damaging (and even deadly) of the conditions

of incarceration here. Essentially, Marion draws its water supply from a toxic waste dump.

Since the prison opened in 1963, USP Marion has had its own separate water source, drawing from Crab Orchard Lake which is part of the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. This wildlife refuge is unique in the country as industries have been allowed to operate within its boundaries. This has been justified by the severe conditions of unemployment in Southern Illinois caused by the collapse of both the coal mining industry and farming. Special incentives have been offered to attract large employers—incentives which seem to have included a see-no-evil posture on the part of local authorities regarding the disposal of toxic industrial wastes. Since the 1930's, explosives manufacturers (such as Olin which still operates here) and electronics companies have buried tons of nitrates, toxic heavy metals such as lead, and PCB's (polychlorinated byphenyls) into numerous dumpsites within the Crab Orchard refuge. These wastes have been steadily seeping into the aquifer and draining into Crab Orchard Lake. In July 1987, the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge was distinguished as the first wildlife refuge in the country to be cited as a toxic waste hazard and added to the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund priority list for emergency clean-up.

\*EPA tests conducted since the 1970's have shown PCB, lead, zinc, arsenic and other toxic materials throughout the Crab Orchard refuge. PCB in particular has been found in toxic concentrations in sediment in Crab Orchard Lake. PCB is a known, powerful carcinogenic agent. The harmful effects of long-term exposure to lead are also well-documented.

\*The City of Marion has access to Crab Orchard Lake as an emergency water supply. It used it once in 1981 for a brief period. However, when drought conditions this fall forced city engineers to find back-up sources of water, a furor by local residents forced the city to buy water from the nearby city of Herrin because of fears of PCB contamination. Health risks that are clearly unacceptable to populations on the outside are fine when it comes to prisoners. With the monotonous Bureau of Prisons chant about Marion confining the "worst of the worst", there has been no protest demonstrated by local citizens concerning the slow poisoning of prisoners. Marion prisoners have achieved rough political parity with Crab Orchard Lake catfish—although there's probably more



## *Latest News...*

### *Luis Rosa Transferred!*

Once again the Illinois Department of Corrections has for no legitimate reason uprooted Prisoner of War Luis Rosa and transferred him to Stateville Prison. Luis' transfer differs from previous incarcerations at Stateville because of the heightened level of harassment. He is the only prisoner at Stateville whose cell is shaken down weekly, whose cell assignment will be changed every month and whose every move is monitored not just by radio calls ahead but by a lieutenant who follows his every move. He is not allowed to resume his job in the education department, nor allowed to even enter the education building.

During previous stays at Stateville and recent stay at Menard, Luis worked several jobs, generally helping fellow prisoners; attended college classes at night and participated in a full range of recreational activities without incident.

We must add that Luis successfully organized a picnic for inmates and their families to Menard Prison. An action that prison officials were not happy about. The new restrictions which single him out for special treatment have only one basis: to punish him for his political affiliations and his ability to organize within the prison.

In spite of the harassment, the compañero remains resolute and in good spirits.

### *Filiberto Ojeda Ríos Held In MCC New York*

As we reported in the September issue of *Libertad*, Filiberto was arrested and charged with shooting an FBI agent in a shoot-out on the day they raided his home on August 30, 1985. Upon his arrest in Hartford, Connecticut, the US government had Filiberto flown to Puerto Rico to be arraigned in federal court for the new charges. Under the most brutal and inhumane conditions and in total disregard for his health, (Filiberto is still recovering from triple by-pass surgery), he was held at the Roosevelt Roads military base. Due to popular support for Filiberto and demands for his immediate release throughout Puerto Rico, the US government was forced to transfer him off the military base. Filiberto is presently being held in the Metropolitan Correctional Center MCC in New York.

**The following are new addresses for our imprisoned patriots. Write to them!**

Alejandrina Torres  
#92152-024  
San Diego MCC  
808 Union Street  
San Diego, CA 92101

Luis Rosa NO2743  
Box 112  
Joliet, Illinois 60434

Filiberto Ojeda Ríos #03167-069  
Metropolitan Correctional Center MCC  
150 Park Row  
New York, NY 10003



Dylcia  
October 15

**Happy  
Birthday  
Dylcia and Alicia**



Alicia  
October 21



# Roy Brown

## In Concert

### In Commemoration of the 38th anniversary of the Jayuya Uprising

Friday, October 28, 1988

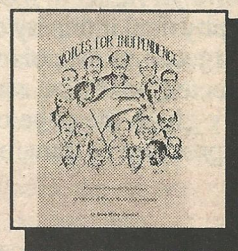
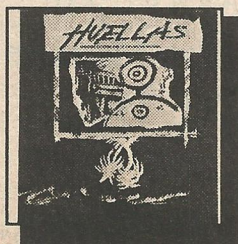
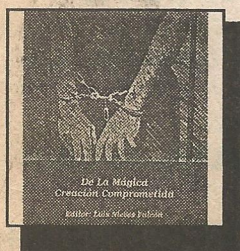
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*For more Information 342-8023*

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### **Health Issues...**

local concern over the fate of the latter.

\*Quite naturally the prison administration at Marion sees no reason for alarm. Of course prison staff does not wash, bathe or cook with contaminated water. Many guards will not drink the water and bring bottled beverages or thermoses from home.

\*No known studies have been done by Health Services at the prison or by contracted outside groups to look for the range of possible symptoms with PCB or toxic heavy metal exposure among Marion prisoners or staff. The unique conditions of isolation/separation at Marion makes the collection of such information by prisoners ourselves nearly impossible. However, through the limited contacts available (the prison grapevine) and through studying various prisoner lawsuits there does seem to be a definable set of symptoms that are unique and specific to a significant proportion of the population that can be correlated with a prisoners arrival at Marion. (In a few known cases, some of these disappear when the prisoner has been transferred to another prison). These symptoms include: chronic dermatitis that appears similar to eczema with small blotches of scaling and itching skin on arms and legs, multiple lipomas (small, benign tumors that form in subcutaneous adipose tissue), frequent headaches, nausea, deterioration of vision and, in several instances, cancer. One of the prisoners who has filed a lawsuit over the water contamination has lost a kidney because of cancer that developed during his incarceration here.

\*While official policy maintains that the water contamination is a non-issue, the administration's own actions repeatedly belie an effort to hide the truth from prisoners and the public. The administration has made it clear on numerous occasions that no prisoner will receive a transfer out of Marion unless he drops all litigation against the prison. This stipulation penalizes a prisoner from exercising his Constitutional rights in the courts and reduces his health and physical integrity to bargaining chips. Choosing to litigate against poisonous conditions means being subjected to them even longer—virtually indefinitely given the pace of civil litigation of this kind. The pressure to transfer out is enormous for this and

all the other reasons. It has meant that lawsuits are continually filed and then dropped, without enough continuity or progress to force the prison to act. A few men persevere with their litigation despite the numerous obstacles and penalties.

\*The Health Services staff—physicians and physician's assistants (PA's)—manifest a studied ignorance when prisoners inquire about the origins of their symptoms and the possible relationship to PCB or heavy metals exposure. The skin rashes and incidence of lipomas both seem to be very common—certainly appearing with enough frequency to raise serious questions for concerned health professionals. I have personally developed both of these symptoms since coming to Marion. When I inquired about the lipomous growths on my back, the physician replied that he thought he "might have read something about them in medical school". The refusal to undertake any serious investigation is coupled with an attitude that prisoners are just habitual complainers and eager to get back at the prison and staff on any level.

\*The EPA published a report about toxic contamination in the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, including the PCB contamination of Crab Orchard Lake. The prison has actively tried to prevent copies of this report from coming inside to prisoners with pending lawsuits with the justification that the information contained within it might give rise to "possible threat to the security and good order of the institution"—i.e., protest on the part of prisoners against being systematically poisoned.

\*The occurrence of symptoms such as the dermatitis and lipomous growths would be sufficient cause for immediate investigation and action by responsible health professionals. However, the cancers that are known to result from exposure to PCB usually take many years to develop, often up to twenty. Toxins such as PCB accumulate in the body, usually in high concentrations in adipose tissue (where death due to this kind of toxic exposure may not be known for a long time. But any possibility of such severe consequences deserves immediate and complex investigation. This clearly won't be generated by the Bureau of Prisons except as a shuck to perceived public pressure. *Continues in next issue.*

## **STOP the Marion Lockdown!**

**Join us on the 5th anniversary of the Marion Lockdown**

**Saturday, October 22, 1988**

**Noon - 6:00 p.m.**

**Wellington Ave. Church 615 W. Wellington Ave.**

**Sponsored by: Committee to End the Marion Lockdown**

**National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War**

**Info: CEML 663-5046**